

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

New claims 100-130 are currently pending in the present application, including independent claims 100, 118, and 124. Claims 1-99 have all been cancelled.

Independent claim 100, for instance, is directed to a method for forming a tissue product. The method comprises forming a paper web from a cellulosic fibrous material and a pre-swollen superabsorbent material, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to 3% by weight of the paper web and has a total swelling capacity of at least about 20 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of superabsorbent material. The paper web is at least partially dried in the method of claim 100, and the resulting tissue product is formed primarily from the paper web, wherein the tissue product has a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.

In the Office Action, claims 70, 71, 75-80, 82, and 84-87, which included independent claim 70, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,986,882 to Mackey, et al. However, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 88-99, which included independent claims 88 and 93, were allowable. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 72-74 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without commenting on the propriety of the rejection of claims 70, 71, 75-80, 82, and 84-87 using Mackey, et al., Applicants respectfully submit that the new set of claims presented in this paper, claims 100-130, patentably define over the cited reference(s) and are in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 100-130 take into account the Examiner's discussion of allowable subject matter at pages 3-4 of the Office Action.

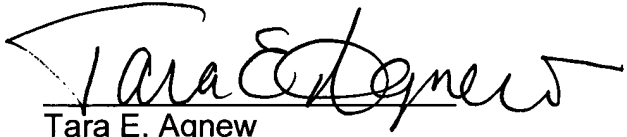
It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment, Examiner Halpern is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Appl. No. 09/643,979  
Amdt. Dated January 5, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2004

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit  
Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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